

April 27th When I was a student I had the reputation of being a man of courage and enterprise. I remember that when there was a ghost hunt at Coltbridge it was I who sat up in the haunted house. It is it advancing years (after all I am only thirty five) or is it this physical malady which has caused degeneration. Certainly my heart quails when I think of that horrible cavern in the hill and the certainty that it has some monstrous occupant. What shall I do? There is not an hour in the day that I do not debate the question. If I say nothing then the ^{mystery} question remains unsolved. If I do say anything, then I have the alternative of mad alarm over the whole country side, or of absolute incredulity which may end in consigning me to an asylum. On the whole I think that my best course is to wait, and to prepare for some expedition which shall be more deliberate and better ^{thought-out} ~~prepared~~ than the last. As a first step I have been ~~to~~ to Castleton and ^{obtained} ~~purchased~~ a few essentials, a large acetylene lantern for one thing, and a good double-barrelled sporting rifle for another. The latter I have hired, but I have bought a dozen heavy game cartridges which would bring down a rhinoceros. Now I am ready for my triglodyte friend. Give me better health and a little spate of energy and I shall try conclusions with him yet. But who and what is he? Ah, there is the question which stands between me & my sleep. How many theories do I form, only to discard each in turn. ^{It is all} ~~And yet~~ so utterly unthinkable. And yet the cry, the foot-mark, the tread in the cavern - no reasoning can get past these. I think of the old world legends of dragons and of monsters. Were they perhaps not such fairy tales as we have thought! Can it be that there is some fact which underlies them, and am I of all mortals, the one who is chosen to expose it.

May 3^d For several days I have been laid up by the vagaries of an English spring, and during those days there have been developments the true and sinister meaning of which no one can appreciate save myself. I may say that we have had cloudy & moonless

SITTING WITH SPIRITUALISM IN DOYLE'S TIME

On this page of the manuscript, Dr. Hardcastle tells us: "When I was a student I had the reputation of being a man of courage and enterprise. I remember that when there was a ghost hunt at Coltbridge it was I who sat up in the haunted house."

What's perhaps most interesting about this line is that Arthur Conan Doyle doesn't have his protagonist

recall actually encountering a ghost; he notes only that the good doctor was braver in occupying a supposedly haunted house than his fellows.

— Lisa Morton

Please see our Page 13 debut for the continuation of award-winning Halloween expert Lisa Morton's excellent overview of the ... (continued on other side)

A COMMON NEWSLETTER

— with a nod to Micah Clarke —

BRINGING TIDINGS FROM THE ACD SOCIETY

— a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle —

via Ross Davies (editor pro tem, and publisher)

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Derrick Belanger (left) presents Doylean Honors award for Fiction & Poetry to Margie Deck, who kindly donated her \$250 Mysterious Bookshop credit to the Beacon Society (www.beaconsociety.com), as did Doylean Honoree for Visual Arts Carla Coupe. Photo by Rachel Conner.

DOYLEAN HONORS, WESSEX WINNERS

For their recent excellent Doylean work, Chris Chan, Carla Coupe, Margie Deck, Richard Fallon, Hal Glatzer, David Hone, Jeremiah Schiek, Andrew Singleton, Matt Tomlinson, and Laurence Trujillo received Doylean Honors on January 8 at Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop — and for his decades of such work Clifford S. Goldfarb received the Doylean Honor for Lifetime Service.

As ever, we ran the Wessex Cup at the same time. Garnet (owned by Karen Ellery) won it all.

Congratulations to all, human and equine! We will back at Otto's shop on January 14, 2027 for more Doylean Honors and Wessex Cup racing.



Wessex Cup champion Garnet (right), wins a close semi-final race against Ranjitsinhji before a crowd of human onlookers (left to right): Carla Coupe (Garnet's trainer), PJ Sullivan (Ranjitsinhji's owner), Carl Stix, Ed Pettit (presiding official), Bruce Harris, Karen Ellery, Julius Spada, and Mark Jones (producer and instant replay).

EVER MORE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Alexis Barquin, proprietor of *The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia*, has announced a major project on which he collaborated with Mark Chadderton:

Over 300 Doylean articles added! The ACDE has recently been uploading all the articles and content from the old (1989-2003) *Arthur Conan Doyle Society Journal* after permission was given to do so from the Society's founder Christopher Roden. All ten issues of this important publication can now be read and researched online and in due course, the Society's 15 *Parish Magazine* publications will also be added, as well as ACDS ephemera. Here's the link: [www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/wiki/The_Arthur_Conan_Doyle_Society_\(1989-2003\)](http://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/wiki/The_Arthur_Conan_Doyle_Society_(1989-2003)). The *ACD Journal* articles have also been put onto another area of the website to help scholars: under the STUDIES & RESEARCH heading, this can be accessed via the left hand menu and has been divided into three sections — Theses, Studies and Reviews.

We visited. You should too. We are certain that we will return frequently, and that you will too. Well done, M. Barquin and Mr. Chadderton!

AN ACD FIRST

In addition to its customary monthly doses of Paul Chapman and Mark Jones's educational and entertaining conversation, *Doings of Doyle* recently posted a special show in which Mark (with translation assistance from Marcus Geisser) interviews Philipp Schöbi. Dr. Schöbi, a polymathic scholar currently based in Feldkirch, Austria, discovered volumes 1 and 2 of *The Feldkirchian Gazette*, a "scientific and literary monthly magazine" that ACD edited (and largely wrote) in late 1875 while he was a student in Stella Matutina, a Jesuit grammar school in Feldkirch. Listen now at www.doingsofdoyle.com/.

PORTSMOUTH ACD FELLOWSHIP

Professor Hugo Frey of the University of Chichester has been awarded a grant from the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council for research in Portsmouth's Conan Doyle Collection. Prof. Frey said: "The challenge is conceptual. To find one original and manageable way of gaining research value from such an incredible resource. What we want to focus on for this grant is the visual depiction of Sherlock Holmes, that is how he has been represented as a figure in art, film posters, illustrations, movies, and even comic books and other graphic narratives."

(continued from other side)

... wax and wane of Spiritualism in the UK during ACD's life. The page also includes Naching T. Kassa's *Doyle's Creation of Realistic Characters*. Page 13 marks the start of our fourth year. Find their work at acdsociety.com/bjg/13/bjg13a.html.

— Margie Deck and Nancy Holder

